

Envoy for the Horn of Africa, both of the Department of State; and the National Intelligence Officer

for Africa, Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 27 public bills, H.R. 3263–3289; and 5 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 34; and H. Res. 404–407 were introduced. **Pages H2419–21**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H2422**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 2788, to amend title 38, United States Code, to eliminate the cap on full-time employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs who provide equal employment opportunity counseling (H. Rept. 117–35);

H.R. 2704, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the equal employment opportunity functions of Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 117–36); and

H. Res. 403, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1629) to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to limitations on exclusive approval or licensure of orphan drugs, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 275) condemning the horrific shootings in Atlanta, Georgia, on March 16, 2021, and reaffirming the House of Representative's commitment to combating hate, bigotry, and violence against the Asian-American and Pacific Islander community; and for other purposes (H. Rept. 117–37). **Page H2419**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Perlmutter to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H2359**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:05 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H2359**

Whole Number of the House: The Chair announced to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from Ohio, Mr. Stivers, the whole number of the House is 430. **Page H2360**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure:

VA Transparency Trust & Act of 2021: H.R. 2911, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a plan for obligating and expending Coronavirus pandemic funding made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs, by a $\frac{2}{3}$

yea-and-nay vote of 411 yeas to 4 nays, Roll No. 144. **Pages H2363–64, H2403–04**

Recess: The House recessed at 5:13 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H2403**

Communication from the Sergeant at Arms: The House received a communication from William J. Walker, Sergeant at Arms. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, following consultation with the Office of Attending Physician, Mr. Walker notified the House that the public health emergency due to the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 remains in effect. **Page H2404**

Announcement by the Chair: The Chair announced the extension, pursuant to section 3 of House Resolution 8, and effective May 20, 2021, of the covered period designated on January 4, 2021. **Page H2404**

Board of Visitors to the United States Coast Guard Academy—Appointment: The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members on the part of the House to the Board of Visitors to the United States Coast Guard Academy: Representatives Courtney, Barragan, Rutherford, and McClain. **Page H2404**

Suspensions—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measures under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.

Improving VA Accountability To Prevent Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Act of 2021: H.R. 2704, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the equal employment opportunity functions of Department of Veterans Affairs; **Pages H2360–62**

VA Equal Employment Opportunity Counselor Modernization Act: H.R. 2788, to amend title 38, United States Code, to eliminate the cap on full-time employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs who provide equal employment opportunity counseling; **Pages H2362–63**

Homeless Veterans with Children Reintegration Act: H.R. 240, to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Labor to prioritize the provision of services to homeless veterans with dependents in carrying out homeless veterans reintegration programs; **Pages H2364–65**

West Los Angeles VA Campus Improvement Act of 2021: H.R. 711, amended, to amend the West Los Angeles Leasing Act of 2016 to authorize the use of certain funds received pursuant to leases entered into under such Act; **Pages H2365–66**

GI Bill National Emergency Extended Deadline Act: H.R. 2167, amended, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for extensions of the time limitations for use of entitlement under Department of Veterans Affairs educational assistance programs by reason of school closures due to emergency and other situations; **Pages H2366–69**

Directing the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a Native VetSuccess at Tribal Colleges and Universities Pilot Program: H.R. 2878, amended, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a Native VetSuccess at Tribal Colleges and Universities Pilot Program; **Pages H2369–72**

Directing the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a report on the use of cameras in medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs: H.R. 1510, amended, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a report on the use of cameras in medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs; **Pages H2372–73**

Amending title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration: H.R. 2494, to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration; **Pages H2373–75**

Sgt. Ketchum Rural Veterans Mental Health Act of 2021: H.R. 2441, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to expand the Rural Access Network for Growth Enhancement Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study to assess certain mental health care resources of the Department of Veterans Affairs available to veterans who live in rural areas; **Pages H2375–78**

Coastal and Ocean Acidification Stressors and Threats Research Act of 2021: H.R. 1447, amended, to amend the Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring Act of 2009 to establish an Ocean Acidification Advisory Board, to expand and improve the research on Ocean Acidification and Coastal Acidification, to establish and maintain a data archive system for Ocean Acidification data and Coastal Acidification data; **Pages H2378–85**

National Estuaries and Acidification Research Act of 2021: H.R. 2533, to provide for a study by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering,

and Medicine examining the impact of ocean acidification and other stressors in estuarine environments; **Pages H2385–87**

Rural STEM Education Research Act: H.R. 210, amended, to coordinate Federal research and development efforts focused on STEM education and workforce development in rural areas, including the development and application of new technologies to support and improve rural STEM education; **Pages H2387–90**

Supporting Early-Career Researchers Act: H.R. 144, amended, to forestall the loss of research talent by establishing a temporary early career research fellowship program; **Pages H2390–92**

STEM Opportunities Act: H.R. 204, amended, to direct the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy to carry out programs and activities to ensure that Federal science agencies and institutions of higher education receiving Federal research and development funding are fully engaging their entire talent pool; **Pages H2392–98**

MSI STEM Achievement Act: H.R. 2027, to direct Federal science agencies and the Office of Science and Technology Policy to undertake activities to improve the quality of undergraduate STEM education and enhance the research capacity at the Nation's HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs; and **Pages H2398–H2401**

Combating Sexual Harassment in Science Act: H.R. 2695, to provide for research to better understand the causes and consequences of sexual harassment affecting individuals in the scientific, technical, engineering, and mathematics workforce and to examine policies to reduce the prevalence and negative impact of such harassment. **Pages H2401–03**

Senate Referral: S. 593 was held at the desk.

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Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on pages H2404–05.

Quorum Calls—Votes: One yea-and-nay vote developed during the proceedings of today and appears on page H2404.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 noon and adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Committee Meetings

FAIRNESS IN ORPHAN DRUG EXCLUSIVITY ACT; CONDEMNING THE HORRIFIC SHOOTINGS IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA, ON MARCH 16, 2021, AND REAFFIRMING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE'S COMMITMENT TO COMBATING HATE, BIGOTRY, AND VIOLENCE AGAINST THE ASIAN-AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITY

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 1629, the “Fairness in Orphan Drug Exclusivity Act”; and H. Res. 275, condemning the horrific shootings in Atlanta, Georgia, on March 16, 2021, and reaffirming the House of Representative’s commitment to combating hate, bigotry, and violence against the Asian-American and Pacific Islander community. The Committee granted, by record vote of 9–4, a rule providing for consideration of H.R. 1629, the “Fairness in Orphan Drug Exclusivity Act”, and H. Res. 275, Condemning the horrific shootings in Atlanta, Georgia, on March 16, 2021, and reaffirming the House of Representative’s commitment to combating hate, bigotry, and violence against the Asian-American and Pacific Islander community. The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 1629, the “Fairness in Orphan Drug Exclusivity Act”, under a closed rule. The rule provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their designees. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the bill shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill. The rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule provides for consideration of H. Res. 275, Condemning the horrific shootings in Atlanta, Georgia, on March 16, 2021, and reaffirming the House of Representative’s commitment to combating hate, bigotry, and violence against the Asian-American and Pacific Islander community, under a closed rule. The rule provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Oversight and Reform. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the resolution. The rule provides that the resolution shall be considered as read. The rule provides that House Resolution 398 is hereby adopted. The rule provides that House Resolution 188, agreed to March 8, 2021 (as amended by H. Res. 330, agreed to April 20, 2021) is amended by striking “May 20, 2021” each place it appears and inserting (in each instance) “July 1, 2021”. The rule provides that at

any time through the legislative day of Thursday, May 20, 2021, the Speaker may entertain motions offered by the Majority Leader or a designee that the House suspend the rules with respect to multiple measures that were the object of motions to suspend the rules on the legislative days of May 17 or 18, 2021, and on which the yeas and nays were ordered and further proceedings postponed. The Chair shall put the question on any such motion without debate or intervening motion, and the ordering of the yeas and nays on postponed motions to suspend the rules with respect to such measures is vacated. Testimony was heard from Chairman Pallone, and Representatives Latta, DeSaulnier, and Fallon.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2021

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense, to hold hearings to examine the National Guard and Reserve, 10 a.m., SH–216.

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of General Paul J. LaCamera, USA, for reappointment to the grade of general and to be Commander, United Nations Command/Combined Forces Command/United States Forces Korea, Department of Defense, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, to hold hearings to examine the cybersecurity of the defense industrial base, 2:30 p.m., SR–222.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program, 10 a.m., WEBEX.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Data Security, to hold hearings to examine protecting kids online, focusing on internet privacy and manipulative marketing, 10 a.m., SR–253.

Subcommittee on Tourism, Trade, and Export Promotion, to hold hearings to examine reviving international travel and tourism to create and restore jobs, 3 p.m., SR–253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Robert T. Anderson, of Washington, to be Solicitor, Shannon Aneal Estenoz, of Florida, to be Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife, and Tanya Marie Trujillo, of New Mexico, to be an Assistant Secretary, all of the Department of the Interior, 10 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine funding and financing options to bolster American infrastructure, 10 a.m., WEBEX.